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Poverty Welfare : What Are Your Feelings About Welfare?

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What Are Your Feelings About Welfare?

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POVERTY WELFARE

EC 699—A Series on Poverty and Welfare

Part A—What Are Your Feelings about Welfare?
Part B—What Is Welfare?
Part C—What Are Your Beliefs about Welfare?
Part D—Welfare: Historical Perspective.

Part E—Welfare: Opinions and Facts.
Part F—Poverty Awareness Worksheet
Part G—South Dakota Poverty Data.

Part H—Welfare: the Poor, the Near Poor, the Receipts and the Cost.
Part I—Poverty, Welfare and Reform.
Part J—Designing a Welfare System.

What Others are Saying About Poverty and Welfare—Do You Agree?

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1. "Most people on welfare could earn their living if they had more initiative."

Yes

Partly

No

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2. "It is not only in the best interests of the poor to eliminate poverty, but also in the best interests of all people of every other income level."

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3. "It is wrong to equate being poor with stupidity, laziness or lack of skill . . . The sin may well be the employer's failure to pay a decent living wage."

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4. "What is desperately needed is a profound change in our attitudes towards compensation of workers in our country—so that the individual who is willing and able to produce a thing or perform a service which our society considers necessary and valuable, can count on earning a wage on which he can support himself and his family above the poverty line."

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5. "Most welfare in South Dakota goes to Indians who are really the responsibility of the Federal government. If we do not discourage them, Indian people will flock to our towns and become a burden on the local taxpayer."

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6. "The welfare system is called upon to serve many persons who are in need because of the failures of other social institutions—family breakup, schools which do not educate, unobtainable decent housing at prices people can pay, shriveling job opportunities, racial discrimination, catastrophic costs of illness, age, disability, physical or mental handicap, inability of government or private programs to correct faults in the social system."

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7. "Welfare programs of course are costly—in terms of dollars. Not to have welfare programs is even more costly—in terms of people."

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8. "All welfare mothers hang out in beer parlors and have illegitimate children to increase their grants."

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9. "Studies confront us with the inescapable conclusion that the single factor most likely to produce poverty is poverty."

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10. "There are three areas where action could be taken immediately:

1. Preventive medical care would assist in keeping children in school and adults at work.

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2. The sick are directly related to the undernourished.

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☐

3. More emphasis on early education and skill training."

☐
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☐

| | Yes | Partly | No |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11. "It is bad that a man be ignorant, and worse yet that a man be sick, but it is worst of all that a man be poor because then he can do nothing about either his ignorance or his sickness." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. "Poverty is the result of a universal moral law which rewards the good with wealth and provides the wicked with poverty." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. "Welfare is taking life easy . . . with color TV's and Cadillacs." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. "In the thought of one who is at ease there is contempt for misfortune; it is ready for those whose feet slip." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. "But love your enemies, and do good, and lend expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16. "As the escape hatch into the cities becomes increasingly revealed for the booby-trap that it is for the rural poor, we predict a rising tide of resentment and resistance against the perpetuation of involuntary and unnecessary—hence immoral—poverty in rural areas." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17. "The cost of living may be lower in rural areas at least partly because rural inhabitants are forced to do without many of the goods and services available to urban residents." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18. "Most of the poverty in the nation is in the urban areas. It really doesn't apply to South Dakota." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. "Welfare for the poor is what makes taxes so high." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. "The explosion of the welfare rolls is the true relief reform . . . it should be defended, and expanded. Even now, hundreds of thousands of impoverished families remain who are eligible for assistance but who receive no aid at all." | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SOURCES OF QUOTATIONS:

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|--|---|---|
| 1. <i>The Plumb Line</i> , Millard, K., Editor, Vol. 2, No. 6, Feb. 1972, 210 North Prairie, Flandreau, South Dakota. | 7. Ibid. | 15. Luke 6:35. |
| 2. <i>Annual Causes and Conditions of Poverty in South Dakota</i> , 1972 State Economic Opportunity Office, Pierre. | 8. <i>The Plumb Line</i> , Millard, K., Editor, Vol. 2, No. 6, Feb. 1972, 210 North Prairie, Flandreau, South Dakota. | 16. <i>The Ethical Challenge of Rural Poverty</i> , Prepared by a Working Group on Agricultural and Rural Life Issues, Division of Christian Life and Mission, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, 1970. |
| 3. <i>The Bleak Land: An In-Depth Study of Poverty in South Dakota</i> , the State Low Income Council, compiled by M. S. Goings. | 9. <i>Who are the Poor?</i> Focus on Public Affairs, Vol. 2, No. 16, September 15, 1968, Office of Public Affairs, Lutheran Council in the USA. | 17. <i>Where are the Poor?</i> John H. Sanders, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Minnesota, August 1970. |
| 4. <i>Joblessness Not Main Poverty Cause</i> , Sylvia Porter, Argus Leader, Monday, September 8, 1969. | 10. <i>What went wrong in aid to poor: Welfare Officials' Report</i> , Vernon Stintzi in U. S. News and World Report, November 30, 1970. | 18. Interview. |
| 5. <i>The Plumb Line</i> , Millard, K., Editor, Vol. 2, No. 6, Feb. 1972, 210 North Prairie, Flandreau, South Dakota. | 11. <i>Poverty and the Christian Conscience</i> , Harold J. Belugum for the Board of Parish Education, The American Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, 1964. | 19. <i>The Plumb Line</i> , Millard, K., Editor, Vol. 2, No. 6, Feb. 1972, 210 North Prairie, Flandreau, South Dakota. |
| 6. <i>Issues in Welfare Reform</i> , Carl F. Reuss, statement prepared in behalf of the Commission on Church and Society, The American Lutheran Church, June 1971. | 12. Ibid. | 20. <i>Regulating the Poor: The Functions of Public Welfare</i> , Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward, Random House, 1971. |
| | 13. <i>The Plumb Line</i> , Millard, K., Editor, Vol. 2, No. 6, Feb. 1972, 210 North Prairie, Flandreau, South Dakota. | |
| | 14. Job 12:5. | |

